

## Message Text

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ACTION FBO-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 A-01 /017 W

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P 311414Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2272

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 3109

FOR FBO-NISONGER

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, SY

SUBJECT: REPAIR OF RESIDENCE WALL, PROPERTY NO. 02476

REF: DAMASCUS 2933

STATE 274958

1. THE EMBASSY HOPES THAT THE FOLLOWING WILL CLARIFY THE PROBLEM WE FACE IN REPLACING THE PORTION OF RESIDENCE WALL WHICH WAS REMOVED TO PREVENT IT COLLAPSING INTO THE NEIGHBORING PROPERTY.

2. THE EXISTING WALL (INCLUDING THE 65 FOOT PORTION ALREADY REMOVED) WAS BUILT EXACTLY ON OUR PROPERTY LINE. ON THIS LINE THE GROUND DROPS STRAIGHT DOWN BETWEEN SIX AND EIGHT FEET TO THE SURFACE OF THE NEIGHBORING PROPERTY. THE OWNER OF THE NEIGHBORING PROPERTY HAS CONSTRUCTED A CINDER BLOCK RETAINING WALL, OF LIMITED STRENGTH, ALONG THE BANK.

3. THE LOCAL CONTRACTORS WE HAVE CONTACTED ADVISE US THAT IF WE REBUILD OUR WALL ON OUR PROPERTY LINE ITS WEIGHT WOULD CAUSE THE BANK TO COLLAPSE AND BOTH THE NEW WALL AND THE NEIGHBORS WALL COULD END UP IN THE LATTER'S YARD. THESE EXPERTS ADVISE THAT IF OUR NEW WALL IS TO BE BUILT RIGHT ON OUR PROPERTY LINE THE FOOTING SHOULD BE SUNK AT LEAST TWO FEET BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE NEIGHBORS PROPERTY WHICH MEANS THAT THE BOTTOM OF THE FOOTING WOULD BE TEN FEET BELOW THE SURFACE OF OUR PROPERTY.

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4. SINCE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE WALL REMAIN 10 FEET HIGH FOR SECURITY AS WELL AS PRIVACY REASONS, THERE SEEMS LITTLE THAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT REDUCING THE WEIGHT OF THE WALL WHICH MUST BE REPLACED.

5. GUIDANCE FROM FBO TECHNICAL EXPERTS IS REQUESTED WITH THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES AS WE SEE THEM HERE.

A) MOVE THE REPLACEMENT WALL TWO FEET INTO OUR PROPERTY LINE AND INSTALL CUSTOMARY TWO FOOT DEEP FOOTINGS. THIS WOULD MEAN SACRIFICING 130 SQUARE FEET OF PROPERTY AND A LINE OF CYPRESS TREES MEASURING 20 FEET TALL WOULD HAVE TO BE REMOVED (WE WOULD STILL HAVE ANOTHER LINE OF CYPRESS TREES TWO FEET INSIDE THE WALL). ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, THE REMOVAL OF ONE LINE OF TREES MIGHT BENEFIT STRENGTHWISE THOSE WHICH REMAIN.

B) BUILD THE WALL RIGHT ON OUR PROPERTY LINE WITH TWO FOOT DEEP FOOTINGS HAVING BUTTRESS FOOTINGS 2.5 FEET LONG OF THE SAME DIMENSIONS AS THE BASIC FOOTING EVERY 11 FEET. SINKING THESE BUTTRESSES MIGHT ALSO NECESSITATE REMOVING MOST OF THE FIRST LINE OF THE EXISTING CYPRESS TREES.

C) SINK THE TEN FOOT FOOTING AS SUGGESTED IN DAMASCUS 2933.

6. WE ASSUME THAT FBO HAS BEEN FACED WITH SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN CONSTRUCTING WALLS SUCH AS DESCRIBED ABOVE AND TRUST THAT FBO EXPERTS WILL QUICKLY COME UP WITH THE BEST SOLUTION.

7. FOR NISONGER. WE UNDERSTAND FROM GRAPEVINE THAT YOU PLAN TO HANG UP YOUR SPIKES TODAY. IF THIS IS TRUE WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT ALL THE NEA VETERANS HERE WHO HAVE WORKED WITH YOU OVER THE YEARS WILL MISS YOU VERY MUCH AND JOIN IN WISHING YOU HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS IN WHATEVER YOU TAKE ON NEXT.  
MURPHY

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